

Appl. No. 09/540,947

Docket No. MIT-057A03

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

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1 1. Cancelled.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of Claim +11 wherein said means for  
2 comparing the communication of the participant to a predetermined set of communication  
3 passages includes means for learning communication passages by being presented with one or  
4 more situation-action pairs which are classified in a rule-base such that said facilitator agent can  
5 proactively respond to future situations without user intervention.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of Claim +11 wherein said means for  
2 monitoring relevant components of a design environment and suggesting appropriate actions to  
3 be taken by a participant includes means for monitoring and suggesting by being presented with  
4 one or more situation-action pairs which are classified in a rule-base such that said social agent  
5 can proactively respond to future situations without user intervention.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of Claim +11 wherein said social agents  
2 express an emotion of a participant.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of Claim +11 wherein said facilitator agents  
2 suggests a change of forum in response to a particular agenda item.

1 6. (Cancel)

1 7. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim +11 wherein said facilitator agent further  
2 comprises means for evolving a reaction with the use of the conferencing system.

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1 8. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~1~~11 wherein said facilitator agent further  
2 comprises:  
3 means for coupling to a control mechanism; and  
4 means for establishing an appropriate control mechanism for a given forum setting..

1 9. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~1~~11 wherein at least one of said facilitator agent  
2 agents further comprises means for building a rapport with a conferring participant through ~~an~~  
3 interface technique that builds trust between the participant and each of the at least one of said  
4 facilitator agents~~the agent~~.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~1~~11 wherein said facilitator agent further  
2 comprises:  
3 means for presenting a choice to a participant; and  
4 means for accepting a decision from the participant.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A conferencing ~~The system of Claim 1 comprising:~~  
2 (a) a plurality of participants;  
3 (b) a like plurality of facilitator agents, each of said facilitator agents associated with a  
4 corresponding one of said plurality of participants, each said plurality of facilitator agents  
5 including:  
6 (1) means for monitoring communication of a participant in the conferencing system;  
7 (2) means for comparing the communication of the participant to a predetermined set  
8 of communication passages;  
9 (3) means for providing a prompt to a participant in the conferencing system in  
10 response to the means for comparing finding a match between the communication  
11 of a participant and one of the predetermined set of communication passages; and  
12 (4) wherein said facilitator agent further comprises means for presenting a caricature  
13 representation that informs the user of its current process state;  
14 (c) a like plurality of social agents each of said social agents associated with a corresponding  
15 one of said plurality of participants, each of said social agents including:

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16        (1) means for monitoring relevant components of a design environment and  
17        suggesting appropriate actions to be taken by a participant; and  
18        (d) means for learning how to effectively represent each individual of a plurality of  
19        individuals in the design environment.

1        12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 wherein the process state corresponds to  
2        one of thinking, suggesting, gratified, disappointed, or confused.

1        13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 further comprising emotion representing  
2        means for providing a suggestion in response to a decision and for showing expressions of  
3        sadness or happiness dependent upon the reaction of the participant.

1        14. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 further comprising means for building  
2        thresholds for decisions that may be taken without user intervention.

1        15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 further comprising means for encoding user  
2        preferences for agent autonomy such that said agent includes an indication of what decisions the  
3        participant with which the agent is associated is willing to delegate to the agent.

1        16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 wherein the agent's decisions on process  
2        interventions are based on the following aspects of the agent environment:

- 3        (a) a current topic's recommendation list;  
4        (b) threshold levels indicating user preferences;  
5        (c) an averaged record of the participation of each participant in a negotiation process; and  
6        (d) a complete conversation model of an ongoing negotiation.

1        17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 further comprising:  
2        means for generating a vector representing the averages of the on-line time consumed by  
3        each participant in a forum;  
4        means for generating a vector representing the amount of recommendations generated  
5        regarding a specific intent;

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1 means for generating a vector representing the average time a participant in a forum waits  
2 before given the right to speak; and  
3 means for generating a vector representing the relevance of a topic to each participant in  
4 a forum.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 17 wherein a weight is assigned to each of the  
2 vectors and the elements are summed.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 18 wherein the weights are adjustable by a  
2 user.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 611 wherein the facilitator agent distinguishes  
2 between: (1) brainstorming/free control strategy, (2) a lecture control strategy; and (3) a  
3 chairperson control strategy.

1 21. (Cancel)

1 22. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim +11 wherein said social agent further comprises:  
2 means for becoming more familiar with a participant with which the agent is associated;  
3 means for cooperating with the agents of other participants in the conferencing system to  
4 decide upon an appropriate meeting control scheme; and  
5 means for reaching a consensus on a meeting process intervention.

Claims 23 – 51 Cancelled

1  
1 52. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim +11 wherein at least one of said facilitator  
2 agents ~~agent~~ further comprises:  
3 means for becoming more familiar with a participant with which the agent is associated;  
4 means for cooperating with the agents of other participants in the conferencing system to  
5 decide upon an appropriate meeting control scheme; and  
6 means for reaching a consensus on a meeting process intervention.

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